GOVT 2305 – Quiz 15 - Chapter 14 The Federal Judicial System: Applying the Law   
  
1. Federal judges are   
A. nominated by the Senate and approved by both houses of Congress.  
B. nominated by the president and approved by the Senate.  
C. nominated by the president and approved by both houses of Congress.  
D. elected by majority vote in their respective districts.  
E. elected by majority vote in their respective states.   
  
2. What are the constitutional requirements for being a federal judge?   
A. at least 30 years old and a citizen of the United States  
B. at least 25 years old and a citizen of the United States  
C. at least 30 years old and a resident of the specific judicial district  
D. at least 30 years old and a lawyer in good standing with the state bar  
E. There are no constitutional requirements for being a federal judge.   
  
3. The constitutional provision that federal judges and justices hold office "during good behavior" has   
A. meant, in effect, that they will serve until they die or choose to retire.  
B. provided them the opportunity to carry out their duties without immediate fear of reprisal by the president or Congress.  
C. enabled presidents to influence judicial policy through their appointments long after leaving the White House.  
D. had all these effects: Federal judges and justices serve, effectively, until they die or choose to retire; they are provided the opportunity to carry out their duties without immediate fear of reprisal by the president or Congress; and presidents are able to influence judicial policy through their appointments long after leaving the White House.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
4. How long do federal judges serve?   
A. two years  
B. four years  
C. eight years  
D. ten years  
E. until they retire, die, or are removed through the impeachment and conviction process   
  
5. The power of the Supreme Court is MOST apparent in its ability to   
A. issue advisory opinions when Congress is considering a new bill.  
B. impeach federal judges who consistently ignore its rulings.  
C. declare another institution's action to be unconstitutional.  
D. override any decision of a state court.  
E. issue advisory opinions to the president on a regular basis.   
  
6. The Supreme Court grants certiorari to fewer than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cases each year.   
A. 10  
B. 30  
C. 50  
D. 75  
E. 100   
  
7. A concurring opinion   
A. explains the chief justice's position on a case.  
B. is a separate view written by a justice who votes with the majority but disagrees with its reasoning.  
C. is delivered when the Court interprets a constitutional issue.  
D. is delivered when at least two justices, but less than a majority, hold the same opinion in a case.  
E. explains why the Court accepted the case in the first place.   
  
8. Compared with the decision in a Supreme Court case, the opinion is more significant because it   
A. determines the losing party in a case and the penalty to be imposed on this party.  
B. reveals the conflicts between the justices, which the president and Congress can use in determining their position on judicial appointments and new legislation.  
C. informs others of the Court's interpretation of the laws and thereby guides their decisions.  
D. addresses the constitutional aspects of a case, whereas the decision addresses the statutory aspects.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
9. The federal district courts   
A. are the chief trial courts of the federal system.  
B. are the only federal courts where the two sides present their case to a jury for a verdict.  
C. are the courts that, in practice, make the final decision in most federal cases.  
D. exist in each state.  
E. All of these answers are correct.   
  
  
10. Although federal district courts are theoretically bound by Supreme Court precedents, they sometimes deviate because   
A. the facts of a case are seldom precisely the same as those of similar cases decided by the Supreme Court.  
B. federal judges may misunderstand the Court's judicial reasoning or position.  
C. ambiguities or unaddressed issues in Supreme Court rulings give lower courts some flexibility in deciding cases.  
D. of all these factors: The facts of a case are seldom precisely the same as those of similar cases decided by the Supreme Court; federal judges may misunderstand the Court's judicial reasoning or position; and ambiguities or unaddressed issues in the Court's rulings give lower courts some flexibility in deciding cases.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
11. The United States has two court systems, state and federal. The federal system   
A. has discretionary jurisdiction over all cases arising in the state system.  
B. is the only one with appellate courts.  
C. is the only one based on the constitutional doctrine of the separation of powers.  
D. is the only one that has judges who are appointed to office.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
12. What is the MOST common method in the states for the selection of judges?   
A. appointment by the state supreme courts  
B. promotion from within the legal establishment  
C. appointment by the governor  
D. election to office  
E. appointment by state legislatures   
  
13. About \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ percent of the nation's legal cases are decided in state court systems.   
A. 10  
B. 25  
C. 50  
D. 75  
E. 95   
  
14. The appointment of federal judges is influenced MOST substantially by   
A. partisanship.  
B. logrolling.  
C. pork barreling.  
D. affirmative action.  
E. personal friendships.   
  
15. Which of the following Supreme Court justices was appointed by President Dwight Eisenhower?   
A. Sandra Day O'Connor  
B. John Stevens  
C. Earl Warren  
D. Louis Brandeis  
E. David Souter   
  
16. According to the Constitution, the federal courts can issue a decision only   
A. in response to actual legal cases.  
B. in cases where the U.S. government is one of the parties involved in the dispute.  
C. on cases heard previously by a state court and appealed by the losing party.  
D. in cases where the U.S. government is one of the parties involved in the dispute, and where the cases were heard previously by a state court and appealed by the losing party.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
17. The term stare decisis refers to   
A. adherence to precedent.  
B. judicial activism.  
C. judicial restraint.  
D. judicial review.  
E. excessive partisanship.   
  
18. Precedent, while not an absolute constraint on the courts, is needed to   
A. preserve the courts as a counter majoritarian institution.  
B. maintain legal consistency over time, so confusion and uncertainty about the law can be avoided.  
C. check the president in the area of public law.  
D. balance the policy making authority of Congress.  
E. check the president in the area of foreign policy.   
  
19. With regard to public opinion, the Supreme Court   
A. ignores it in order to make decisions that are based on enduring values rather than the public's passing whims.  
B. remains uninformed about it because justices stay on the bench for life and never face the public scrutiny of an election.  
C. attempts to stay close enough to public opinion so as to avoid outright defiance of its decisions.  
D. attempts to follow it very closely in order to create public enthusiasm for its rulings.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
20. An amicus curiae ("friend of the court") brief provides a court with the view held by   
A. an interest that is not a direct party to the case.  
B. the Justice Department.  
C. the House and Senate judiciary committees.  
D. the American Bar Association.  
E. the solicitor general.   
ularly in the realm of individual rights.